

REMARKS

The claims now pending in the application are Claims 1 to 4, 6, 8 to 14, 16 and 18 to 27, the independent claims being Claims 1, 12 and 20 to 24. Claims 5, 7, 15 and 17 have been cancelled herein. Claims 1 to 4, 6, 8 to 14, 16 and 18 to 27 have been amended herein.

In the Official Action dated November 6, 2003, Claims 1 to 8, 12 to 18 and 20 to 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,115,137 (Ozawa), Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as unpatentable over the Ozawa '137 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,201,571 (Ota), Claims 10, 11 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as unpatentable over the Ozawa '137 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,477,264 (Sarbadhikari), and Claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as unpatentable over the Ozawa '137 patent in view of Applicant's disclosure at page 42, lines 8 to 20 of the present application ("Applicant's Admitted Prior Art"). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections respectfully are requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The rejections of the claims over the cited art respectfully are traversed. Nevertheless, without conceding the propriety of the rejections, Claims 5, 7, 15 and 17 have been cancelled and Claims 1 to 4, 6, 8 to 14, 16 and 18 to 27 have been amended herein more clearly to recite various novel features of the present invention, with particular attention to the Examiner's comments. Support for the proposed amendments may be found in the original application. No new matter has been added.

The present invention is characterized in that a display property is set to define image processing to be applied to an image in an image inputting apparatus, and the set display property is transmitted to an information processing apparatus together with an image to be printed; thus the information processing apparatus performs the image processing defined by the received display property on the received image, and sends the processed image to a connected

connected printer. According to the present invention, since the image processing applied to the image to be printed is performed by the information processing apparatus, an image processing unit is unnecessary for the image inputting apparatus or the printer. Thus, the cost of the image inputting apparatus and the printer is reduced.

Applicant submits that the prior art fails to anticipate the present invention. Moreover, Applicant submits that there are differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art, such that the subject matter taken as a whole would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

The Ozawa '137 patent relates to an image processing system, a digital camera, and a printing apparatus, and discloses a system in which a digital camera and a printer print an image while communicating, where the digital camera can select a print mode, such as HQ and HS modes shown in Fig. 7, and a pseudo halftone processing mode, such as error diffusion and dither processing shown in Fig. 8; the Ozawa '137 patent further discloses a system in which the digital camera sets color matching modes described in Column 8, lines 5 to 9. However, Applicant submits that the Ozawa '137 patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed features of the present invention. Rather, in the Ozawa '137 patent system, the digital camera receives print data conversion software from the printer, as shown in Fig. 5, S4 and Fig. 6, S23 to perform image processing on the image to be printed. The Ozawa '137 patent further teaches printing of a zoomed image; however, in this system the zooming process is performed on the digital camera as shown in Fig. 10, S52. Applicant notes that the Ozawa '137 patent teaches in a printing system shown in Fig. 15, a PC 112 can perform image processing on an image received from a digital camera 110; however, the image processing is not defined by the display property received from the digital camera 110 as the present invention.

The Ota '571 patent relates to a digital camera recording a reduced image synthesized with a character image of the image picking-up information, and was cited for its

alleged disclosure of display means for displaying a pointing cursor together with a captured or stored image, wherein a layout is set by moving the pointing cursor by layout setting means. Without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's characterizations, Applicant submits that the Ota '571 patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed features of the present invention. Nor is the Ota '571 patent understood to remedy the deficiencies of the Ozawa '137 patent or add anything thereto that would make obvious the claimed invention.

Likewise, without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's characterization of disclosure at page 42 of the present application (alleged Applicant's Admitted Prior Art"), Applicant submits that such disclosure fails to add anything to the above-cited art that would make obvious the claimed invention.

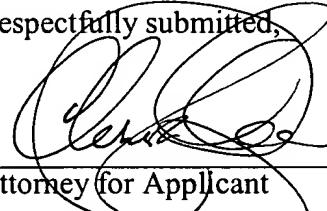
For the above reasons, Applicant submits that independent Claims 1, 12 and 20 to 24 are allowable over the cited art.

Claims 2 to 4, 6, 8 to 11, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19 and 25 to 27 depend from Claims 1 and 12, respectively, and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Moreover, each of these dependent claims recites additional features in combination with the features of independent Claims 1 and 12, and is believed allowable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims respectfully is requested.

In formal matters, the specification and abstract have been amended as to matters of form, including English spelling, grammar, idiom, syntax and the like. No new matter has been added.

Applicant believes that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action, and submits that the application is in allowable form. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the present application at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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